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REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION AND DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

Addendum

Progress made by the Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA) in TCDC activities during the period 1991-1992

1. General activities. SELA reported that, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, it had established guidelines to intensify the use of the TCDC mechanism as a useful and flexible tool to support the economic and social development of member countries. These guidelines were incorporated in a document entitled "TCDC regional guidelines and strategies for the 1990s" and forwarded to the Special Unit for TCDC as the region's input for the meeting of Governments' experts held in Morocco in February 1993, and for the preparation of the TCDC strategy paper by the Special Unit.

2. The TCDC strategy envisaged by the member countries of SELA aims mainly at: strengthening of the TCDC national focal points; creation of multisectoral national commissions; preparation of manuals on the existing regional capabilities and resources; allocation of national financial resources for the development of TCDC; integration of the TCDC modality in the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) supported programmes and projects.

3. SELA indicated that within its framework and since 1986, meetings of the directors of international technical cooperation have been held. With technical and financial support from the Special Unit for TCDC, these meetings have led to the institutionalization and consolidation of a consultation mechanism on TCDC policies and identification of bilateral and joint activities.

4. Promotional activities. SELA reported having carried out three main promotional activities during the reporting period:

(a) The annual meetings of the directors of international technical cooperation, which determined the need to initiate a systematic plan aimed at strengthening the management capacity of the national focal points for TCDC. Each of the meetings was attended by 100 participants from the 27 SELA member States and 35 representatives from international, regional and subregional organizations. The total cost ($250,000) of the meetings was shared by the Special Unit for TCDC and SELA;

(b) The meeting of TCDC national focal points, held in 1992 and attended by 40 representatives from SELA member countries. The cost of the meeting amounted to $60,000 and was shared by the Special Unit for TCDC and SELA;

(c) The annual meetings of the coordination mechanism of international organizations and regional forums that support TCDC activities. The meetings, which resulted in joint actions that promote TCDC in the region, were attended by 25 representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations. The total cost of the meetings, estimated at $30,000, was shared by the participating organizations.

5. Operational activities. As an important TCDC operational activity, SELA reported the programming and negotiations exercise in the health sector entitled "TCDC Regional Meeting for Technological Development in the Health Sector". This activity, known also as the "Convergence programme", was held at Santiago, Chile, from 6 to 10 July 1992. The programme is a mechanism designed to encourage health technology development in Latin America and the Caribbean through technical cooperation among countries of the region. The exercise resulted in the identification of 8 regional projects, 56 subregional projects and 384 bilateral agreements in different health technological areas. For the implementation of the agreements signed, the sponsoring organizations agreed to create an Inter-Agency Committee for Health Technology Development. A total number of 400 persons representing Governments, the private sector, universities and international, regional and subregional organizations attended the four subregional meetings and the regional meeting. The total cost of the exercise, estimated at $600,000, was shared by the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Special Unit for TCDC, SELA and the Government of Chile.